

GIANT FULL-COLOR PINUP OF JIMMY "SUPERFLY" SNUKA!

November 1982

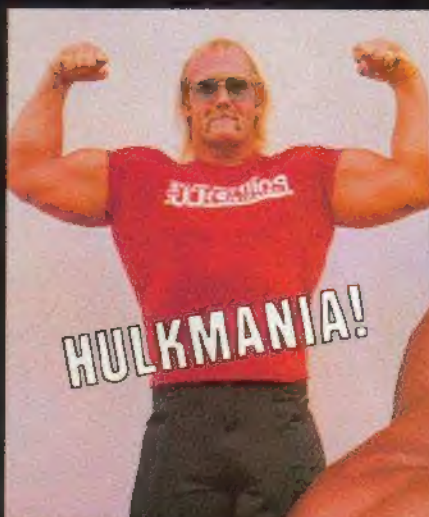
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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

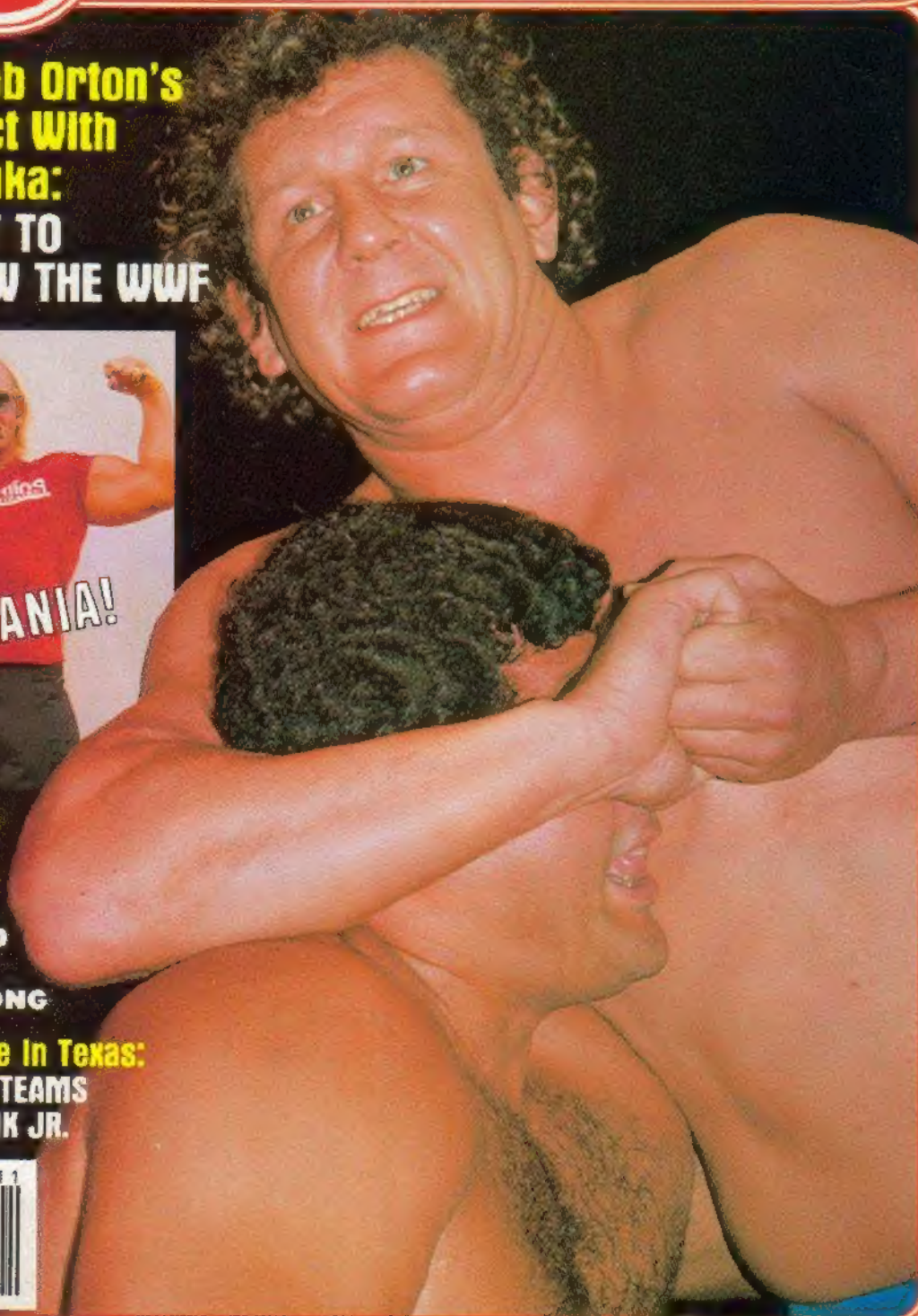
TV.
SPORTS

**Cowboy Bob Orton's
Terror Pact With
Jimmy Snuka:
THEIR PLOT TO
OVERTHROW THE WWF**



**Roddy Piper's
Revenge
Against PWI:
THE MATCH
THAT PROVED
HIM RIGHT
AND US WRONG**

**One Night Truce In Texas:
DUSTY RHODES TEAMS
WITH DORY FUNK JR.**



RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

UTILIZING WHAT APPEARED to be a roll of quarters, Roddy Piper has regained the Mid-Atlantic championship from Jack Brisco.

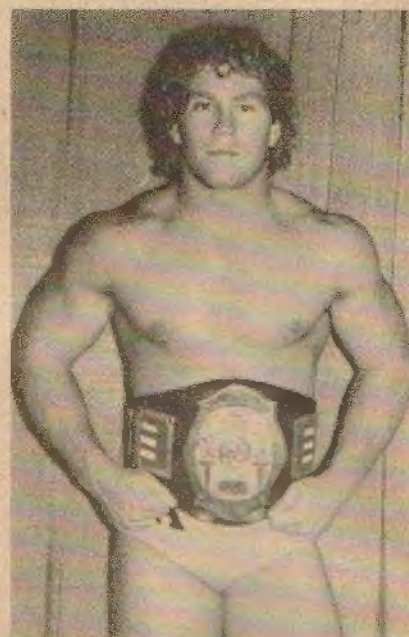
"My head is still aching from that night," Brisco said at a press conference two weeks after the title change. "I know he used some sort of foreign object to knock me out. I don't know what it was, but I've got a big lump on my head to prove he used something other than his bare hands."

Piper's response? "I won the title fair and square. Brisco has cried every time he's lost a title in the

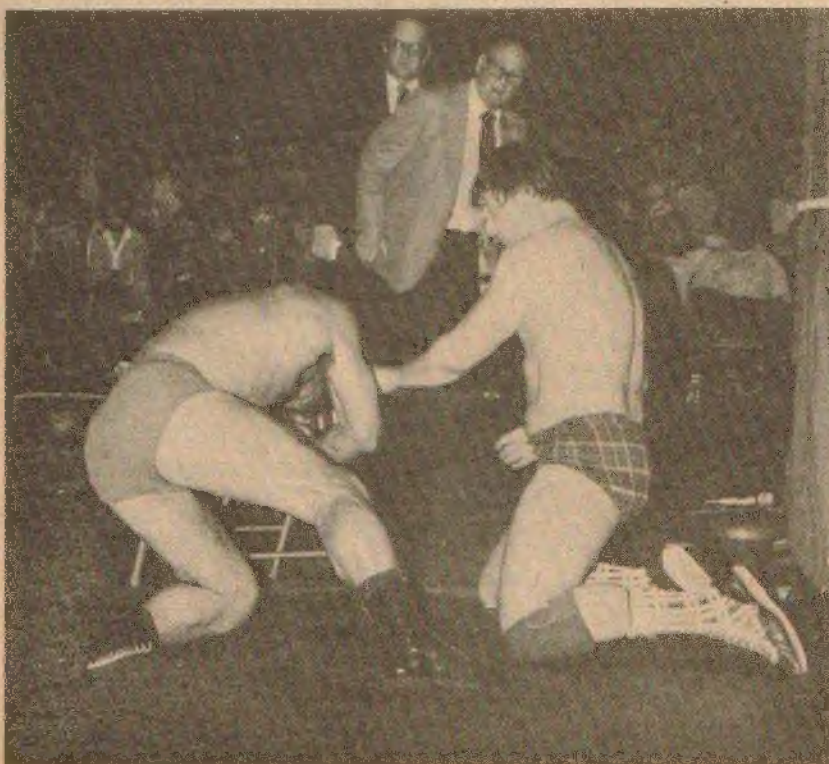
past and here he goes again. Why can't he admit that I am the better man and he is nothing but a loser!"

Congratulations are in order for young Brad Armstrong. Brad, who currently holds the NWA United States junior heavyweight belt, has been named NWA Rookie of the Year. Brad's dad, Bob Armstrong, won the same honor in 1968. Bob and Brad are the first father and son duo in history to both win rookie honors.

The newly formed team of Rick Martel and Tito Santana have built an impressive winning streak and are now in line for a shot at



Piper smashes Brisco's head against a ringside chair (below) just moments before ending his Mid-Atlantic title reign by slamming his head with a roll of quarters. United States junior heavyweight champion Brad Armstrong has been named the NWA Rookie of the Year (right).



AWA tag team kings Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell.

"A scientific tag team match is something the fans will really love," said AWA promoter Wally Karbo. "I don't remember the last time we've seen one of those in the AWA."

Don Carson, to no one's surprise, is now in Texas. Carson's protege, The Mongolian Stomper, has been in the Lone Star State several months and most felt Carson's appearance was inevitable. "At first, I felt safe leaving him on his own," explained Carson. "But now I see that rot like Dick Slater and Scott Casey are trying to pull fast ones on him. But no longer. With me there, they can't do any illegal things to my boy."

Ted DiBiase, for years among
(Continued on page 50)

KING'S COURT

By Peter King



Ted DiBiase, for years among the most well-liked men in wrestling, has undergone a horrible change.

*'Tis always been life's
saddest story*

*A friend betrayed for gold
or glory*

—Andrew Marvell

IT IS HARD to type this. The feeling of numbness inside my heart affects even my fingers. It is like hearing that Gibraltar has crumbled, that Niagara Falls has dried up.

Ted DiBiase is a rulebreaker. Ted DiBiase is hated.

If there was one man in this sport I would have thought would never let his fans down, it was my old friend Ted DiBiase. No one I knew in wrestling was more solid or down to earth than DiBiase. Sure he has had his disappointments in wrestling. But Ted always handled them with grace and style. The more he was wronged, the more determined he seemed to be to remain honorable.

Somehow, it all fell apart. Even now, I'm not sure what made him change. After a trip to Japan, DiBiase returned to the Louisiana wars. Ted tried to get a North American title match against champion Bob Roop, a man the fans hate. DiBiase informed Mid-South promoters that if he did not receive a title shot he would leave the area. Not wanting to lose one of the area's biggest draws, the promoters signed a match between Ted and Roop.

Before the title bout took place, Ted was scheduled to wrestle a tuneup match on a card that featured Junkyard Dog, DiBiase's close friend, vs. Crusher Broomfield, the one-man gang. During that bout, Killer Khan interfered on Broomfield's behalf, so DiBiase ran in to help the Dog. According to ringside observers, DiBiase suffered a bad head injury. It was so bad that the commission doctor ordered DiBiase be declared ineligible for his match against Roop.

The Mid-South promoters asked Junkyard Dog—the next available contender—to substitute for Ted in the title match against Roop. In a magnificent battle, Dog defeated Roop for the North American title.

Two days later, on television, DiBiase was given a title match against newly crowned champion Junkyard Dog. Wearing a glove on his hand that DiBiase says was injured against Roop and Khan, Ted seemed withdrawn and strange as the match began. After a few minutes of scientific action, DiBiase was thrown from the ring. Dog spread the ropes in a

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WFOCUS

With CRAIG PETERS

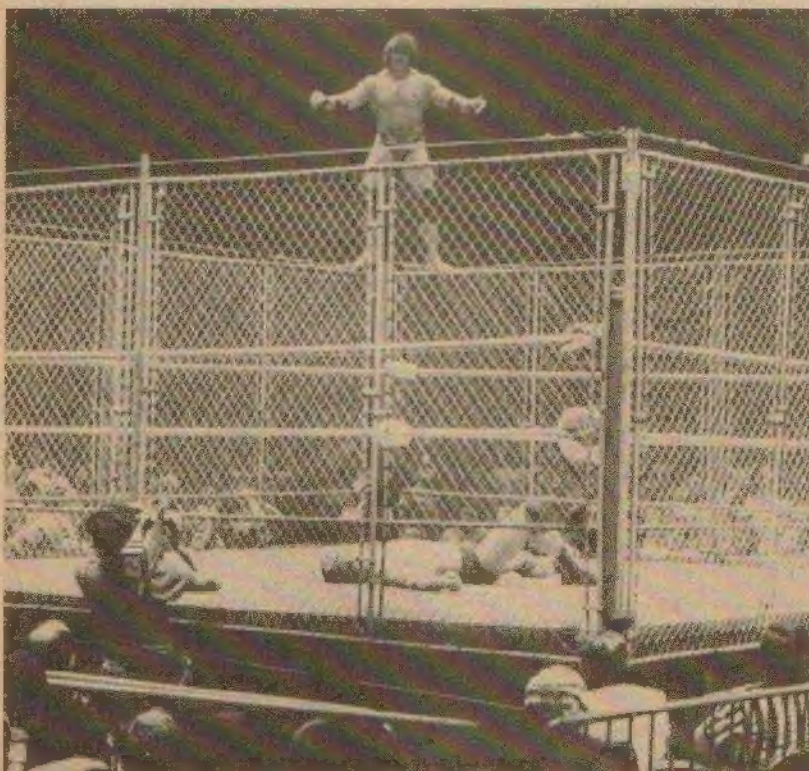
AFTER THE FALL

The most dazzling maneuver I have ever seen in wrestling was Jimmy Snuka's leap off the top of the steel cage during his match against WWF champion Bob Backlund at Madison Square Garden.

Dr. Chris Fravel, at ringside for the match, had some comments about the event.

"Frankly, I was amazed," said

Dr. Fravel. "Considering the height from which he leaped and the force with which he hit the canvas, Snuka could have easily broken several ribs. That move may have been incredibly spectacular, but he was taking quite a risk. If it wasn't for the fact that Snuka is in remarkable physical shape, he would have injured himself severely."



SNUKA VS. BACKLUND

TWO MINUTES AND COUNTING

No matter how hard some people try, Roddy Piper simply will not go away.

Having mobilized the forces of his lawyers, Piper has negated the actions of the officials of Georgia Championship Wrestling and its intended suspension



RODDY PIPER

of Piper from the airwaves.

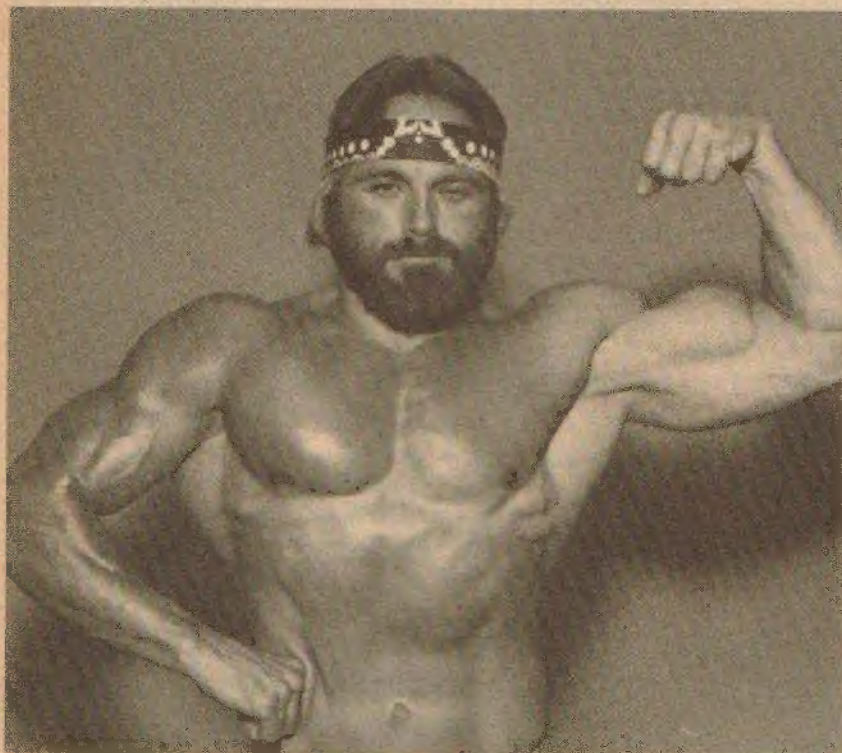
While it is true that Piper, as of this writing, is no longer engaged in color commentary alongside Gordon Solie, he is being afforded two minutes worth of time each week to voice any opinions he wishes.

With Piper as determined as he appears to be and the power of his attorneys behind him, it's a sure bet that he will be a permanent fixture on GCW—at least two minutes each week—for a long time to come.

(Continued on page 52)

A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER



Looking at the physique of Kevin Sullivan now (left), it is difficult to believe that the Kevin Sullivan of seven years ago (above) is the same man. Could similar changes be in store for Dusty Rhodes?

BIG NEWS ABOUT a big man. Dusty Rhodes, the one and only American Dream, has retained Kevin Sullivan as his personal trainer and dietician.

As soon as I heard the news, I jumped the first plane to Knoxville. I've known Kevin for years, but I haven't seen him in quite a while. It would be a nice change of pace, to follow up on this story about him and Rhodes, and catch up on some old times with an old friend. I like mixing business with pleasure.

As I walked through the airport terminal, I thought about Dusty Rhodes. Yes, the Dream himself admits it: He's let himself go a little bit. Too much

beer and pasta and not enough weights and calisthenics.

Some people have been very unkind to Dusty, and only a fraction of this thoughtlessness has found its way into print. I prefer to acknowledge, as Dusty himself has, that he has allowed his training regimen to slip somewhat, and let it go at that.

"Hi, Liz!"

The voice of Kevin Sullivan invaded my daydreams, and I awoke to see Kevin standing a few feet in front of me. He smiled, and I smiled back. The *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* t-shirt that he was wearing could hardly conceal his awesome physique. Biceps and pectorals

bulging, stomach flat as a pancake. Dusty had certainly picked the right man for the job if he was interested in a man who knew about physical fitness.

Kevin and I smalltalked our way through the terminal and into the airport lounge where we found a quiet table so that we could talk. I hadn't eaten all day, so I ordered lunch. Kevin just had a glass of orange juice.

After we filled each other in on what had been going on in our lives for the last year and a half, the conversation shifted to Dusty Rhodes.

"So what have you got in mind for Dusty?" I asked Kevin.

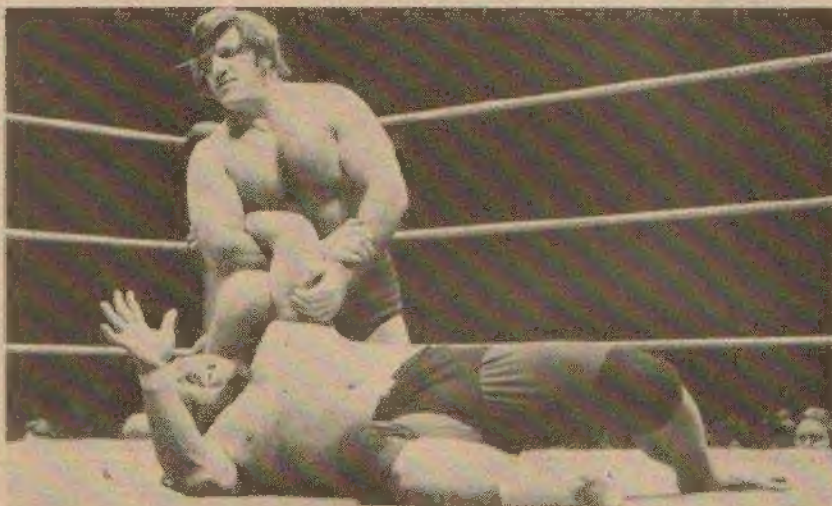
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DRESSING CONFIDENTIAL ROOM

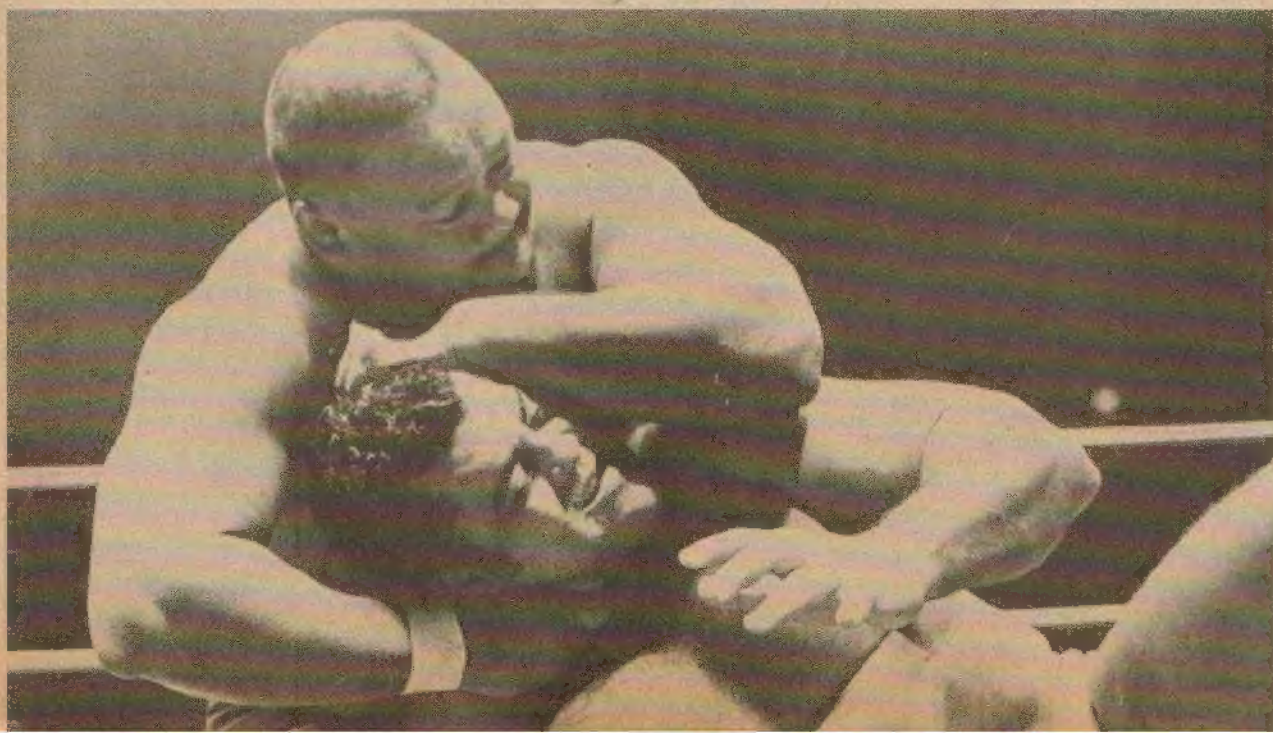
By Stu Saks

IT WAS AN historic press conference. Standing side by side were the two most powerful forces in the history of the WWF. It was July of 1972. The temperature was in the mid-90s in New York City and it was humid. The air conditioner inside the press room at the Hotel International was working as hard as it could, but it did little to combat the heat generated by the hundred or so packed-in media members and the anticipation of what was to be announced.

On that day, Bruno Sammartino and Pedro Morales announced
(Continued on page 62)



Bruno Sammartino's figure-four armbar draws a cry of pain from Prof. Tanaka (above). Tanaka sinks his fingers into a nerve in Pedro Morales' neck (below).



If you wish to contribute to Shocket's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE
Box 48
Rockville Centre, N.Y.
11571

OFF THE O ROPE

By Dan Shocket

I T WILL COME as a surprise to you all that I'm using this space to congratulate many wrestling fans. Over the months, I have been receiving a good deal of mail from people writing to say they disagree with me but support my right to my opinions. Especially in these nasty times, when someone takes the time to write in support of tolerance, that is cause for congratulations and rejoicing. As long as I respect your opinions by putting them in print, and you support the spirit if not the content of my replies, we are all going to live in a better world. As for those who think there is no place for my opinions in a wrestling magazine, may you receive first-degree burns at a book burning.

And now on to this month's disagreements:

Dear Mr. Shocket,

I have written a short "poem" for/about you and your endless rantings and ravings and high opinions of people and wrestlers. I know you're only doing your job, but wormslime



Wormslime and Tommy Rich go together like rotten fruit and maggots. If Tommy's fans want to put themselves in that class, it's up to them.

is a bit harsh for people who favor Ted DiBiase, Tommy Rich, and Michael Hayes. So here it goes: **Deranged/Abnormal/Nauseating/Spoiled/Hypocrite/Obscene/Conceited/Knucklehead/Egotistical and Tyrannical.**

KEVIN VOGT
Yankton, SD

Dear Mr. Vogt:

"Come away, O human child!/To the waters and to the wild/With a faery, hand in hand/For the world's more full of weeping than you can understand;" that is poetry. What you wrote was my name as an acronym to list a series of insults. The only reason I printed your letter was to clear up a misunderstanding. I never called any fan wormslime. I called Tommy Rich and Ted DiBiase wormslime. Then fans wrote in saying that if their heroes were wormslime, then so were they. If they wish to call themselves wormslime, who am I to disagree? By the way, the first person who writes in with the name of the poem from which I quoted gets a year's free subscription to *PWI*.

Dear Dan:

When will Bob Backlund stop being protected? Though he is a good wrestler, it seems that whenever he has a tough opponent, he brings in one of his friends to referee, and of course then there's no way he's going to lose.



Bob Backlund has his hand raised by Pat Patterson after his victory over King Kong Mosca last June. How can the WWF allow Backlund's friends to officiate his matches?

This not only cheapens his reign, but the whole sport of professional wrestling.

TED FIELD JR.
Bremwood, NH

Dear Ted:

You will know when Backlund stops being protected because he will have lost the belt. He will also have gone broke from paying off referees, and unable to get loans from the commissioners who really control this puppet champion.

Dear Mr. Shocket,

I have one thing I want to ask you about the U.S. title belt. Wahoo McDaniel was hurt in a match and not able to defend the U.S. title against Sgt. Slaughter on the date designated. They then gave the belt to Slaughter. Just gave it to him!

Now what kind of competition is that, may I ask?

DONALD STEEN
Hamlet, NC

Dear Mr. Steen,

That's no competition at all. Slaughter, the title, and even McDaniel deserve better. It's important to realize the decision was not up to Slaughter, but the NWA. Slaughter refuses to discuss the situation, but close friends say he at first turned down the title, but was legally forced to accept it.

Dear Diddlebrain Dan:

You call yourself a journalist? All you do is make fun of wrestlers. Only an uneducated person will call Tommy Rich, Michael Hayes or Bob Backlund such names. They

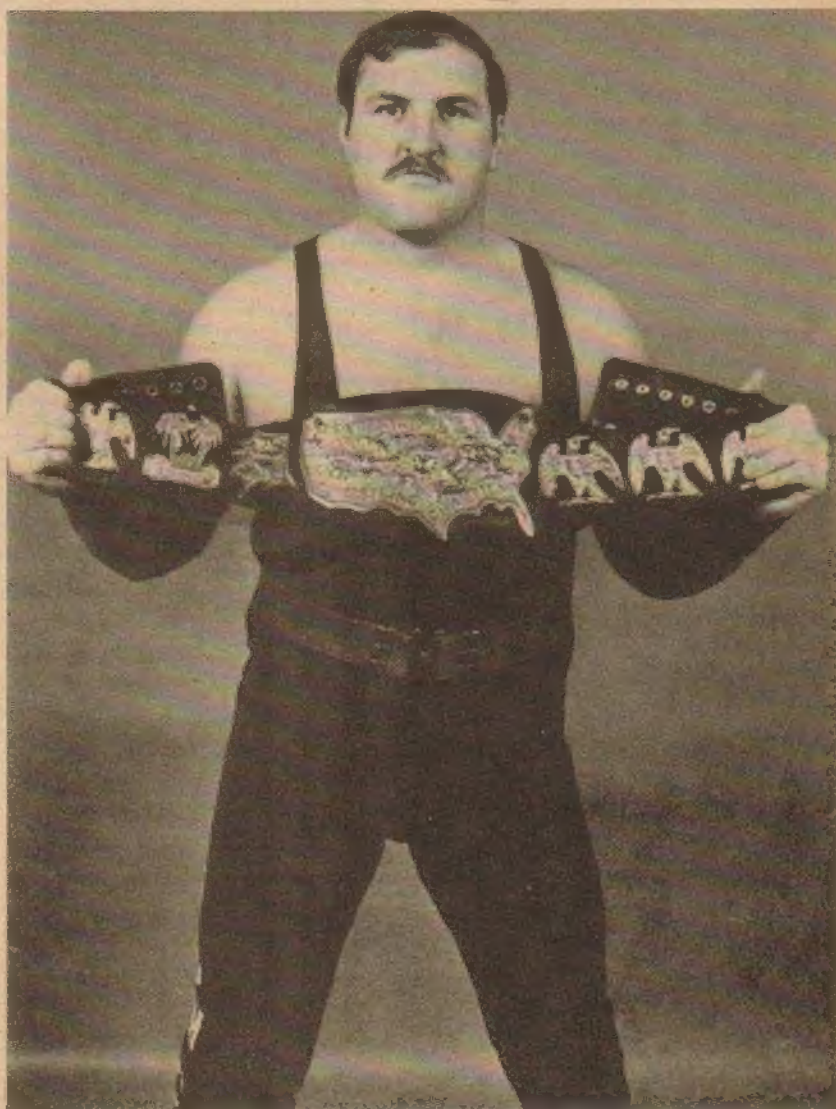
happen to be favorites of mine, and I sure don't care what you think!

Nobody wants to hear your sickening, rabid blatherings, so go back to the smelly swamp you came from, you rotten jerk!

RON FISHER
Jackson, NJ

Dear Ridiculous Ron:

It is always dangerous for someone from New Jersey to call someone else's home a smelly swamp. But here's something to think about while you're watching the sun set over the toxic waste dump: If you don't care what I think, why did you bother writing to tell me so? □



Admittedly, Sgt. Slaughter's claim to the U.S. championship is tainted. But as long as he is champion, the fans will have a man they can look up to and respect.

Every issue, three reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport

PRESS CONFERENCE

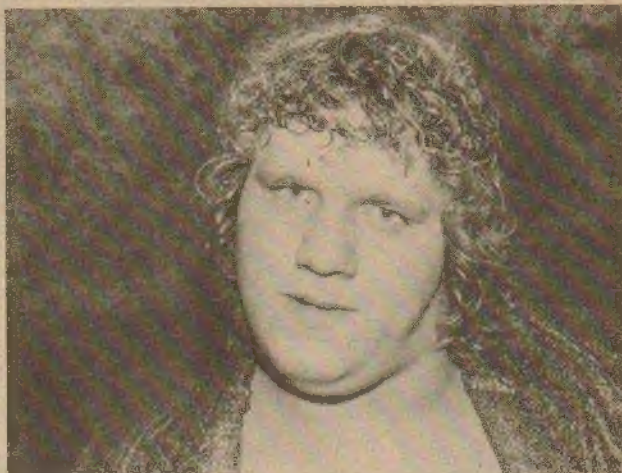
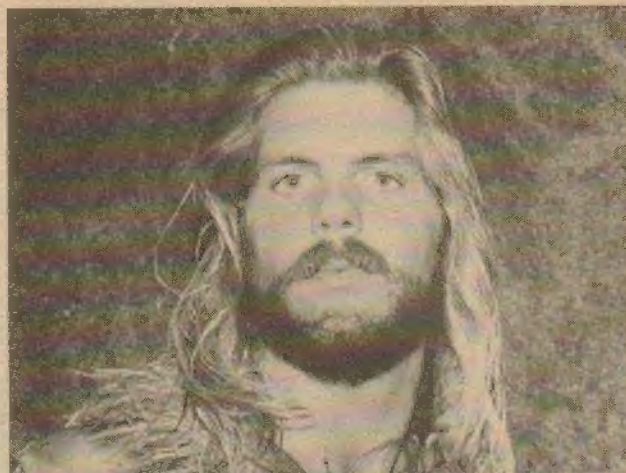
THE FREEBIRDS

(Their reunion is being hailed by wrestling fans as the biggest event of 1982. Freebird Fantasia is once again gripping the wrestling community, and to see two of the three original partners together again and capturing the Georgia National tag team belts raises more than a few questions. Michael Hayes' association with Terry Gordy in the past has been hallmarked by a number of difficulties, and many fans see the possibility of history repeating itself as these two men enter into a partnership that will guide their lives for many months to come. We sent editors Bill Apter, Stu Saks, and Steve Farhood to speak with Hayes and Gordy to try and gain a better under-



"We've had some long talks and we understand each other better now than we ever did. I trust Terry completely."

—Michael Hayes



standing of where they feel they might be going in the near future.)

BILL APTER: First of all, I think congratulations are in order to the two of you for winning the Georgia National tag team championship.

MICHAEL HAYES: Thank you Bill, it's just proof positive that Freebird Fantasia is back to stay.

TERRY GORDY: That's right, it wasn't long after we got back together that we won the belts, and that should prove to everyone that we always were meant to be a team, and that when we do team together it's a combination that can't be stopped!

STEVE FARHOOD: Michael, it was really you who initiated



Two of the premier tag teams in wrestling today—The Freebirds and The Samoans—have engaged in a violent feud.

the breakup of The Freebirds last year, saying that you had other avenues in wrestling you wanted to explore. After the

breakup, there was a lot of bad blood that flowed between you and Terry. Why are you back

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HULKMANIA!

“TRUTH, JUSTICE, and the Hulk Hogan way!”

That's how Hulk Hogan described "Hulkmania!" to Johnny Carson and a national television audience when he appeared on *The Tonight Show*. According to Hogan, Hulkmania is sweeping the country. According to *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* correspondents nationwide, manifestations of Hulkmania can be seen almost

anywhere.

In Boston, film fans are lining up six blocks deep and more to see *Rocky III*, the film in which Hogan has a major role. Some of these fans have been spotted wearing *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* T-shirts and have seen the movie more than four times.

In Omaha, where Hogan occasionally wrestles, fans in the arenas hold up signs: "Hulk-



Above: Johnny Carson and Brooke Shields have Hulkmania! Brooke and Hogan were guests on "The Tonight Show." Top right: Hogan works hard to maintain his superhuman physique.



mania!" "The Incredible Hulk," and "Hulk Hogan: World Champion" are but a few of the banners that have recently been spotted.

In Chicago, when Hulk Hogan walks down the street, women will bring their babies to him and ask him to kiss them. Like a politician on the stump, Hogan is always happy to comply with their wishes. Occasionally, he'll offer a double-dose of his thunderlips, kissing the mother as well!

In Hollywood, film capital of the world, men and women alike, girls of all ages, wear T-shirts that express their adoration for Hogan and the character he portrays in *Rocky III*, Thunderlips.

Indeed, everyone in Hollywood is walking the streets with smiles on their faces. Hollywood is

Films, television, personal appearances nationwide . . . Hulkmania is running wild, and it's taking the nation by storm. A recent appearance by Hulk Hogan on Johnny Carson's "Tonight Show" gave national exposure to a trend that has already gripped wrestling fans from California to New York and beyond



since Sylvester Stallone was so perceptive as to feature me in his film, why wouldn't all of the millions of fans flock to see *Rocky III*? After all, if you were a woman and could see the Hulk on a 20-foot-high screen in a theater, see the Hulk in all his

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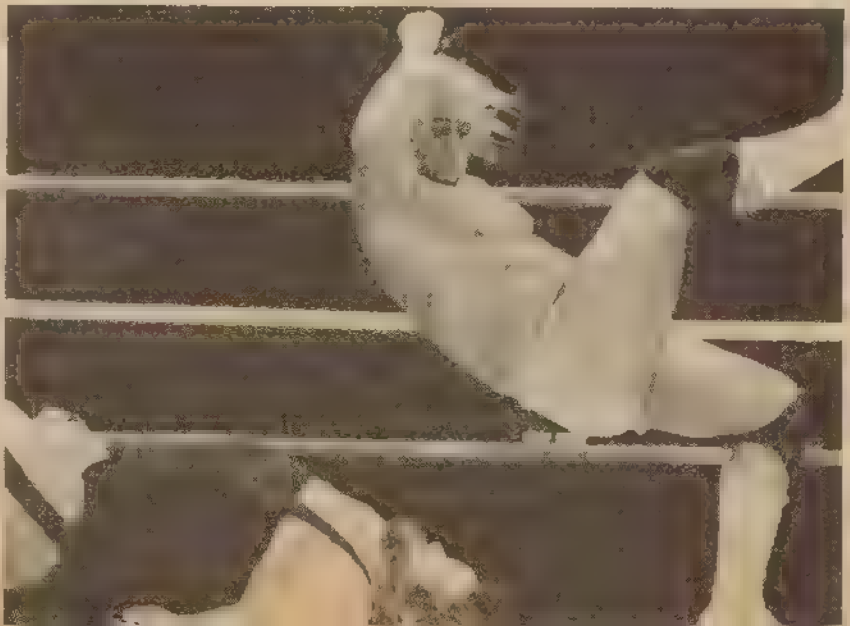


Left: Hogan lifts Sylvester Stallone high over his head during the filming of "Rocky III." Above: The 6'8" Hogan towers over Stallone, whose look of awe is not an act. Below: Hogan assures his fans that he will never neglect his goals as a professional wrestler, no matter how big a Hollywood star he becomes. Crusher Blackwell is the victim of the Hulk's elbowdrop.

synonymous with movies, and the summer of 1982 has been dubbed the greatest movie summer of all time. Hardly a week passed without another box office record being smashed, and one of the films doing the smashing was *Rocky III*.

Hulk Hogan is quick to take a lot of the credit for the success of *Rocky III*.

"It is an undisputed fact that professional wrestling draws more people in a year than any other professional sport," Hogan says. "Now I ask you, if I'm not the most beautiful thing in all of professional wrestling, who is? And



WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

Every month, our reporters will compile wrestlers' most revealing quotes. Often catching the grapplers with their guards down, our reporters will work endlessly in obtaining interesting quotes on a variety of subjects

IVAN KOLOFF

"I will follow the fool, that bearded clod Valiant to the ends of the earth to teach him a lesson that he should have learned years ago. Once I defeat him for good, he will have wished that he had left wrestling forever after our first match. I will follow that coward wherever he runs."



COWBOY BOB ORTON

"Bob Backlund? Well, the Superfly weakened him up pretty nice for me, so I think he shouldn't prove to be too much of a problem. And if a lesson from 12-year-old kids is all he can come up with, that stupid chicken-wing hold, then I'm damn sure I won't have any trouble at all taking the title away from him."



SONNY KING

"The Samoans are now under my personal jurisdiction. I'm going to guide them to the championship belts, and we're going to eliminate anyone and everyone who stands in our way. The first pair of clowns we are going to render helpless and defeat are those very un-fabulous Freebirds, Hayes and Gordy. Their days are numbered."



BLACKJACK MULLIGAN

"I despise men who allow their weaknesses to overtake them. I despise men who do not face up to their battles. I despise men who boast physical abilities and then fail to live up to those boasts. Andre the Giant is guilty of all of these charges, and I despise him for these and many other reasons. There is room in wrestling for only one giant, and that's me."



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One Night Truce In Texas



DUSTY RHODES TEAMS WITH DORY FUNK JR.

Dusty Rhodes and Dory Funk Jr.: Sworn to be mortal enemies until death parts them forever. Necessity, and a strange quirk of fate, brought these rivals together in a tag team combination

THE PROMOTER HAD expected shouts, curses, or threats. He hadn't expected silence.

"Dusty, are you still there?" he asked. Some choked gurgling noises told him Dusty Rhodes was still on the other end of the telephone line, though in what condition was yet to be determined.

"Believe me, Dusty, I called up everyone. No one, but no one, was available except..." The promoter's voice trailed off, not wishing to pronounce twice the name of Dusty's only available tag team partner. That man was Dusty's bitter enemy, Dory Funk Jr.

Even Rhodes had no idea how hard the promoter had searched for someone else. No one who had any choice would want the two men as partners. Chances are better than even that they'd end up battling each other within five minutes. Under those circumstances, they might rearrange the architecture of the arena. Still, Funk was the only man available.

The promoter suspected many of those who claimed to be unavailable were really afraid to wrestle the fearsome team of Ole Anderson and Stan Hansen. The bout was originally scheduled to pit the NWA tag team champions against Dusty and Wahoo McDaniel. When McDaniel was injured, the promoter had to find a very brave man willing to battle Anderson and Hansen with little preparation. It takes months to perfect a tag team. A mistake against Hansen and Anderson could mean a man's career.

Of course, Funk was outraged

(Continued on page 54)

In a rare display of expert teamwork, Funk holds Ole Anderson's leg as Rhodes drops all his weight across the extended limb (top right). Securing Hansen with his leg, Rhodes bends back his opponent's wrist (right).

PHOTOS BY BILL AFTER



IT'S NOT TOO difficult to imagine the kind of backroom bargaining that could have gone on between the Grand Wizard and Captain Lou Albano.

Consider the very natures of these two men.

The Grand Wizard: This veteran wrestling manager is starving for a champion. His last success occurred when Magnificent Muraco defeated Pedro Morales for the WWF Intercontinental title, but that was more than a year ago. It is well known all along the journalistic grapevine that the Wizard is discontented of late, and is reaching a point of desperation as far as attaining a title spot goes.

Captain Lou Albano: Another veteran manager who has had considerable success managing tag teams, the only time he managed a wrestler to the top spot was when Ivan Koloff defeated Bruno Sammartino and held the title for three weeks. That was back in 1971, and Albano's championship teams have kept him too busy over the years to make any continuous effort at challenging the heavyweight titleholder since then. Beyond this fact, his latest pair of champions have had their problems. Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito were recently relieved of their tag team belts by Chief Jay Strongbow and his brother Jules. The massive controversy that followed that Madison Square Garden title change has kept Albano extremely busy.

Albano also manages, in addition to Fuji and Saito, one of the most versatile and capable wrestlers ever to hit the WWF: Superfly Jimmy Snuka. Having succeeded in handing two humiliating defeats to Bob Backlund by disqualification, Snuka came closer than any challenger ever has over the past four years to wresting the title away from Backlund.

But is Backlund's title really what Albano and Snuka are after, or is there something less obvious

Cowboy Bob Orton's Terror Pact With Jimmy Snuka:

THEIR PLOT TO OVERTHROW THE WWF

By Peter King
and Craig Peters

and more devious to their plan?

This question brings us around to The Grand Wizard once again and his most formidable charge, Cowboy Bob Orton.

Let us suppose for a moment that what Albano really wants for Snuka is not Backlund's heavyweight title, but Pedro Morales' Intercontinental belt. He might well feel that the acquisition of the Intercontinental title would provide him with as much of a forum and a power base in the WWF as the heavyweight title would.

This is not as farfetched an assumption as it may seem at first. Consider the analogy in boxing: The heavyweight championship is the most coveted title in all of sport. But when a so-called "minor title" such as the welterweight crown was captured by a man named Sugar Ray Leonard, it was sports history in the making.

Often it seems that all that really matters is that the athlete has a championship forum from which

to speak, and not particularly which forum he is speaking from. The man makes the job, more often than not, and if the man is able to rise to the occasion, it doesn't matter whether he is heavyweight champion or welterweight champion. After all, Sugar Ray Leonard is no Larry Holmes, but he doesn't have to be. And Superfly Jimmy Snuka is no Bob Backlund.

Working from this basic assumption that Albano has designs on Morales' title, the rest of the plan falls into place.

The plan itself appears to be this: Cowboy Bob Orton, under the management of The Grand Wizard, will wrestle, weaken, and prepare Morales for the impending onslaught of Jimmy Snuka. In return, Snuka will perform the same kind of a service for Orton where Bob Backlund is concerned. It would also be safe to assume that various kinds of tactical information regarding the two



Bob Orton



Jimmy Snuka

WWF champions would be exchanged between the Albano and Wizard camps.

A simple plan, almost fiendishly so. So obvious that one would think of a thousand other possibilities before realizing this one; so simplistic in its conception that something would have to fall far out of synchronization in order to throw the plan off course.

One hand washes the other: The Wizard attains his long sought-after goal of managing another WWF heavyweight champion (his last was Superstar Graham in 1977), and Albano captures the Intercontinental title for Snuka, thus gaining a forum for whatever plot he may be hatching.

After all, who better to advise Albano on how to guide Snuka to victory over Morales than the man who himself guided Magnificent Muraco to the Intercontinental title against the same opponent? And who better to advise The Grand Wizard on how to help Orton defeat Bob Backlund than the man who aided Snuka in handing Backlund the most trying challenges of his entire championship reign?

Perhaps the most blatant fact that admits to the existence of this plan is the manner in which Cowboy Bob Orton has come up the ladder of contention in the WWF.

It is generally accepted that a match with Pedro Morales is not necessary in order to advance to

the number-one challenger position and claim a title shot against Backlund. Indeed, the trend has been that wrestlers who have been defeated by Backlund will turn from their failure with the heavyweight champion and attempt to claim victory in a contest for the Intercontinental belt.

A list of the men who have followed this pattern is almost precisely a list of the men Bob Backlund has defended his title against. Yet Orton blatantly stands out as an exception, having staged a major assault on Morales prior to his signing any contracts to face Backlund.

This unusual pattern of matches can only lead to the conclusion that there is an ulterior motive at work as Orton attempts to take the belt away from Backlund, and Snuka prepared to do the same with Morales.

Two recent Madison Square Garden contests, where Backlund met Snuka in the steel cage and Orton faced Morales in a title match, only serve to reinforce this theory. Should the plan succeed, the very existence of the WWF as we know it today could be in jeopardy.

(Continued)

Cowboy Bob Orton and Superfly Jimmy Snuka seem to have entered into an agreement that, if their plan succeeds, could unseat both Bob Backlund and Pedro Morales from the championship positions they now occupy and throw the entire WWF into chaos

PHOTOS BY STU SAKS & CRAIG PETERS

MORALES VS. ORTON—THE INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION UNDER SIEGE

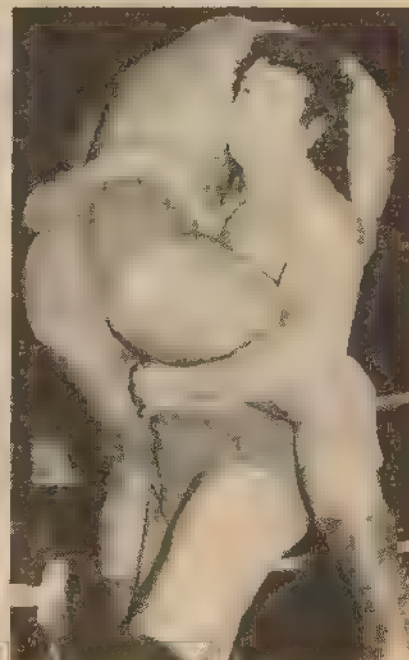
Cowboy Bob Orton's recent Madison Square Garden contest with Pedro Morales proved that under the strain of constant attack, the Intercontinental champion is apt to lose both his composure and the match.

Orton was relentless in his offensive onslaught and he was able to gain quick control of the match after only a minute or two in the ring.

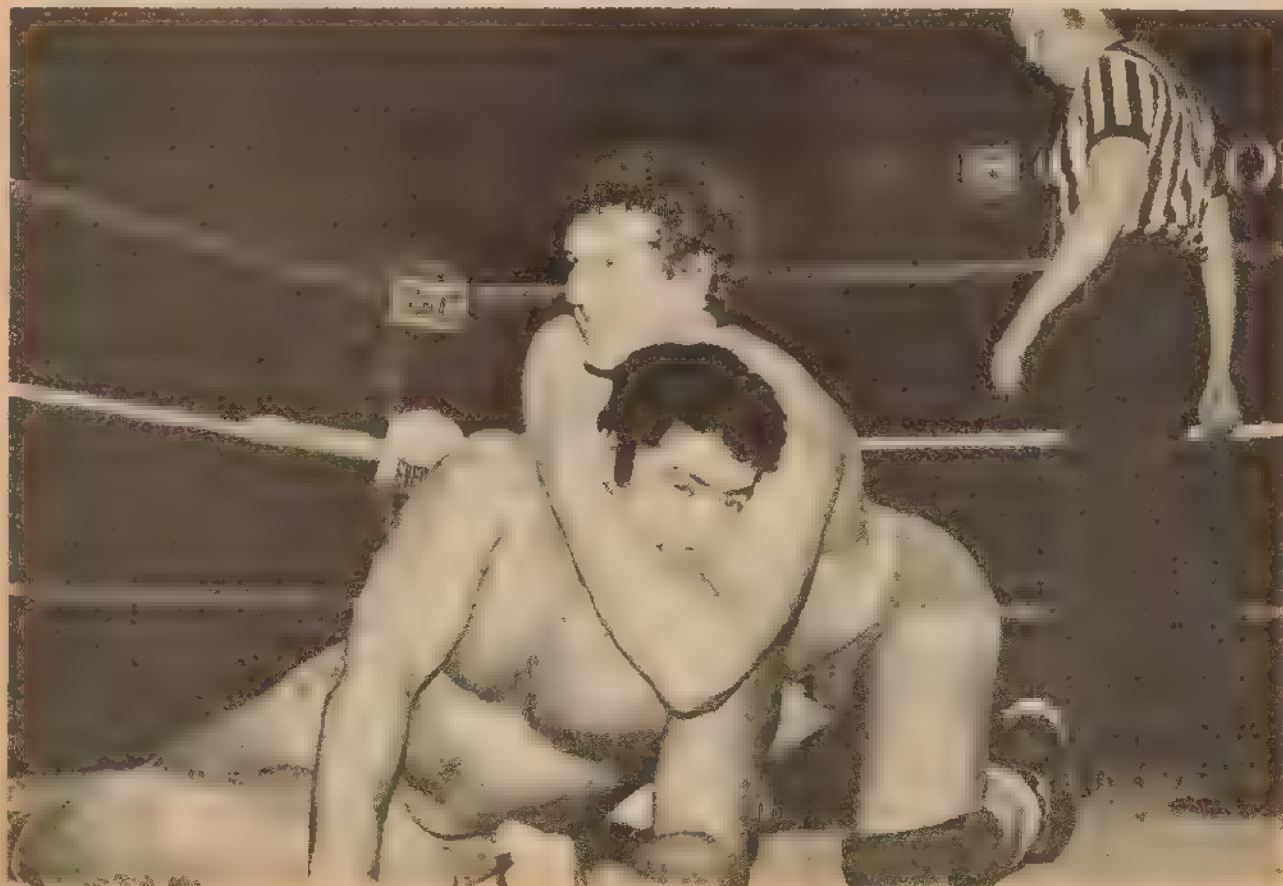
The first maneuver that Orton utilized was a headlock which incapacitated Morales and destroyed any hopes that the champion might have had of attaining any sort of an early lead in this title confrontation.

Morales managed to gather enough strength to break the hold and send Orton sprawling to the

(Continued on page 39)



Orton secures Morales in a side headlock (above left) and then lifts the Intercontinental champion for a reverse spinecrusher against the knee (above right). Orton sneers at ringsiders as he maintains the upper hand (below).



PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

CLOSE-UP

JIMMY "SUPERFLY" SNUKA



JIMMY SNUKA IS one of the most thrilling wrestlers to grace squared circles in recent years . . . His high-flying tactics have gained him millions of fans . . . A native of the Fiji Islands . . . Has held two weightlifting titles: Mr. Hawaii and Mr. Fiji Island . . . Undefeated as an amateur . . . Made his professional debut in 1969 in Hawaii vs. the "Great Fiji," a match he easily won . . . Made his Texas debut on May 18, 1977 . . . At the time, a San Antonio program wrote that Snuka "has the same high-flying style that made Argentina Rocca the great star that he became" . . . Later in 1977, won the NWA tag team championship with partner Paul Orndorff . . . Also held the Pacific Northwest heavy weight title . . . Won the U.S. championship in 1980 . . . Early in 1981, regained the NWA tag title with partner Ray Stevens . . . Has also teamed regularly with Terry Gordy . . . Formerly managed by Buddy

Rogers and Gene Anderson, Snuka is now guided by Captain Lou Albano . . . Made several attempts at winning Bob Backlund's WWF heavyweight belt . . . Offered Backlund the toughest title challenges of his entire career . . . Has feuded bitterly with Rick Steamboat, John Studd, and Ken Patera . . . Maintains one of the most awe-inspiring physiques in all of wrestling . . . Works constantly to keep himself in shape . . . Seldom speaks, preferring to allow manager Albano to do all his talking for him . . . Has made a tradition out of wearing native Fiji styles into the ring . . . Has wrestled all over the world and faced the top opponents in every wrestling federation on the globe . . . Scored technical wins over Backlund, yet has failed to capture the belt . . . Maintains he is not through with his quest for the WWF heavyweight title. □

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

CLOSE-UP

MOST HATED OPPONENT

"Jimmy Snuka snarls like a maniac everytime he hears the name of Rick Steamboat," said Captain Lou Albano, speaking for Snuka. "In fact, after Snuka gets his return match with Backlund and takes away his precious little title, he may very well go back to the Carolinas to annihilate Steamboat for good!"



TOUGHEST OPPONENT

"Of course, there aren't very many opponents in the entire world who even come close to being tough for Jimmy," Albano maintains, "but the closest thing to it would have to be that freak of nature, Andre the Giant. I mean, you can't bodyslam the guy, and he's so big that a flying bodypress can hardly budge him."

GREATEST MATCH

"The Superfly's greatest match was without a doubt his first title match with Backlund," said Albano. "Why, Backlund didn't expect a thing.

He was taken by complete surprise, he was humiliated, he was destroyed, his ribs were injured, and he was exposed for being the shadow of a champion that he is. It was a great match!"



FAVORITE MANEUVER

"Do you even have to ask?" said a surprised Albano. "No doubt that Jimmy's favorite maneuver is the Superfly Super Fly, his own brand of flying bodypress that he'll do even from the top of a 15 foot-high steel cage. This man is fearless, I tell you, absolutely fearless, but I can't say the same for his opponents . . . er, victims!"

Morales-Orton

(Continued from Page 34)



Orton lifts Morales into a completely vertical position before dropping him for a tremendous suplex. Morales ultimately retained his title when he was disqualified for physically abusing the referee, but he certainly paid the price with his body. The next man who challenges him will be at an extreme advantage. And hardly by coincidence, that man is Superfly Jimmy Snuka.

canvas, but the Cowboy quickly followed up with a bearhug and a bodyslam. The two men then scrambled to gain position, a race which Orton won by engaging Morales in another excruciating headlock.

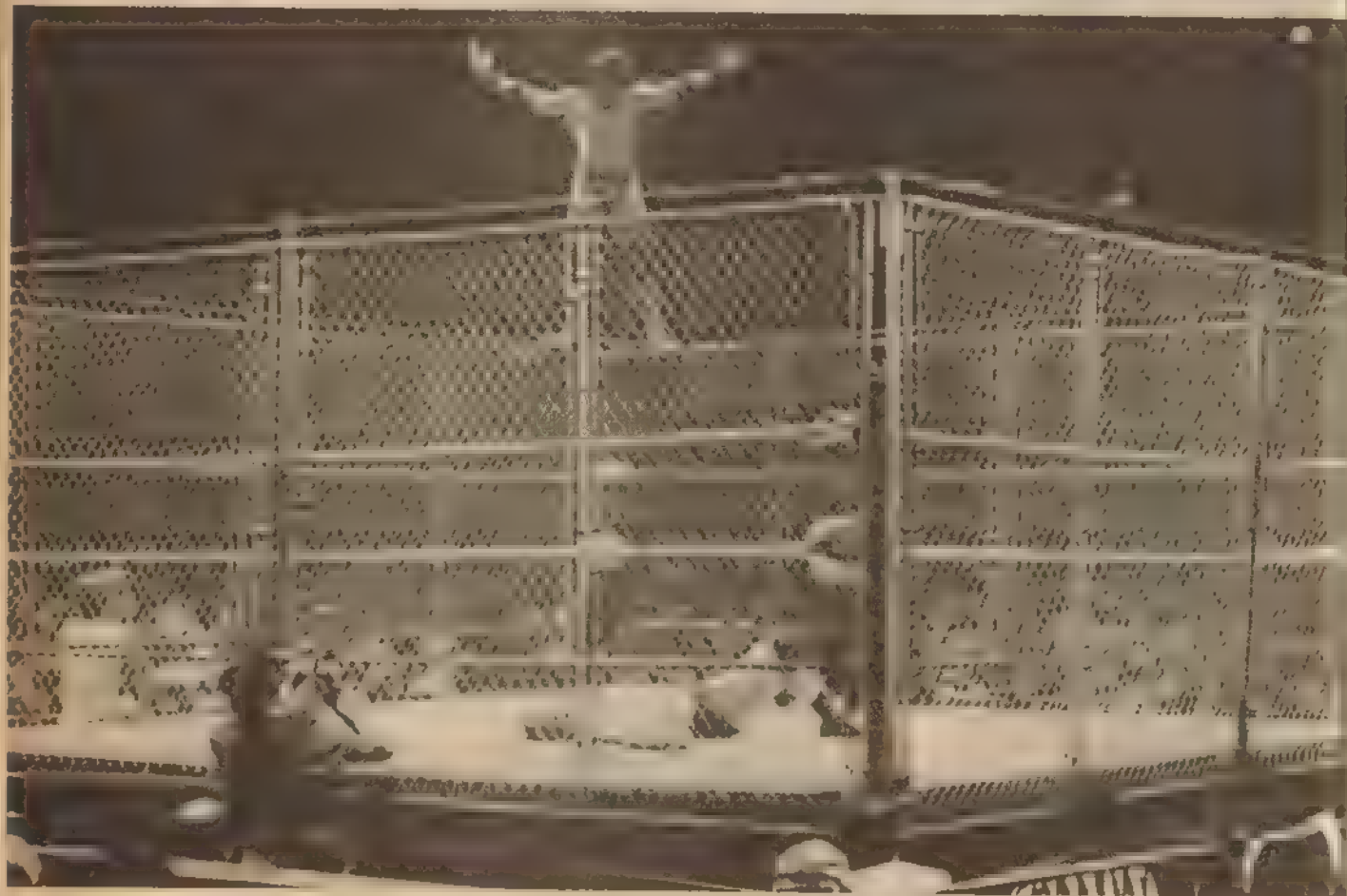
This time, Orton did not wait for Morales to break the hold. Relinquishing his grip, Orton stunned Morales with a dropkick and then hoisted his groggy opponent into the air for the deadly superplex.

As seems to have been the trend with Morales in recent months, it took this severe beating at the hands of his opponent to spur an offensive attack of his own. Yet Morales was frantic at best, flailing about the ring and roughing the referee in a near-crazed attempt to get at Orton.

Morales' unwarranted, and most likely quite unintentional, attack on the referee caused him to be disqualified, and a weary but happy Orton raised his hands in victory. More important than the win, however, was the fact that Orton had gained valuable experience in dealing with Morales, experience which no doubt can lead to a perception of subtle weaknesses.

Whatever Achilles' heel Orton feels he might have discovered in Pedro Morales that evening, you can be sure that Jimmy Snuka will be concentrating on it when the Superfly meets the Intercontinental champion. —Craig Peters

BACKLUND VS. SNUKA— WAR OF ATTRITION IN THE STEEL CAGE

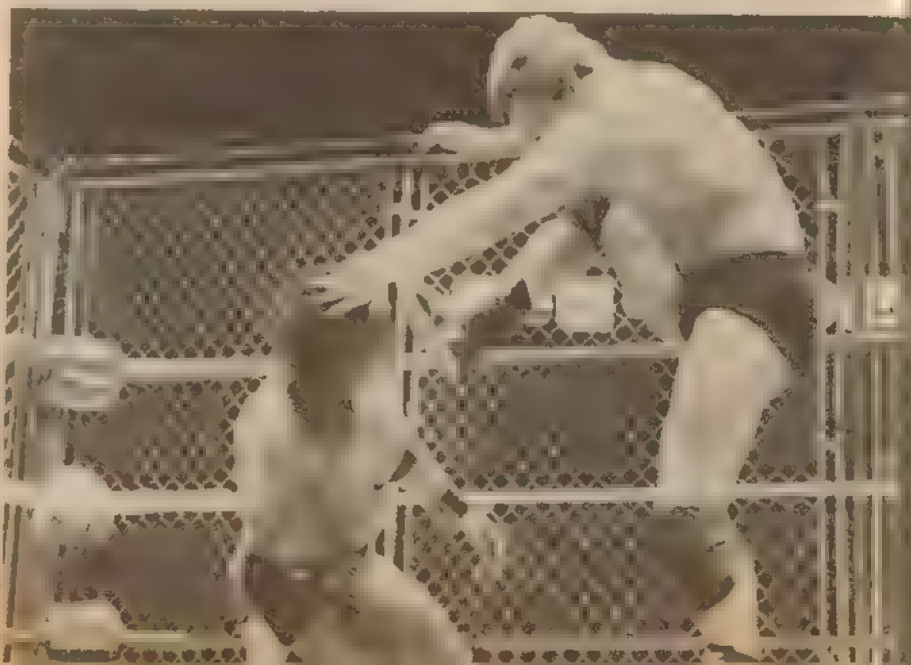


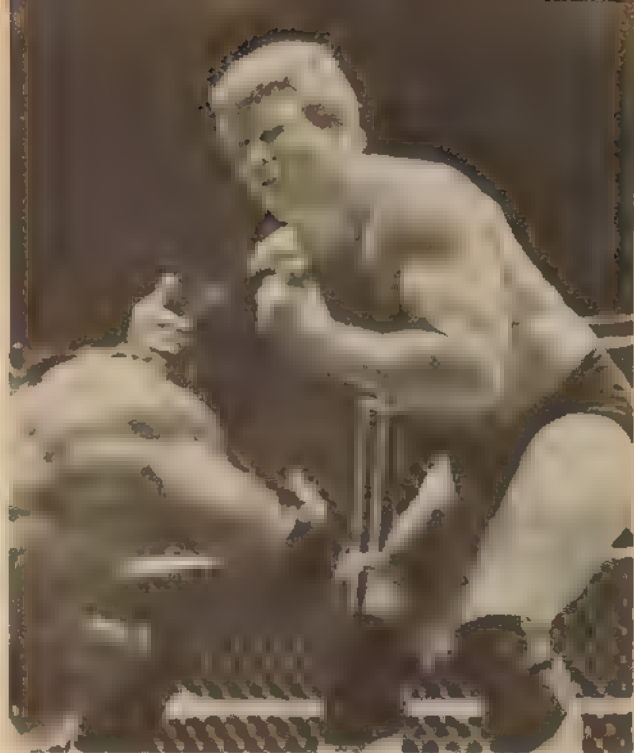
In preparation for what was probably the most daring maneuver ever attempted in wrestling, Snuka balances himself atop the 15-foot-high steel cage (above). His do or die leap would either cause severe injury to himself or Backlund. Earlier, Backlund kicks his challenger alongside his head (below).

It was Jimmy Snuka's third Madison Square Garden meeting with WWF champion Bob Backlund, and the confrontation was to be held inside a 15-foot high steel cage.

The winner of the match would be the man who could first climb through the doorway, a stipulation that differs from the normal rule of the winner being the first man able to either go through the door or climb over the top of the cage. This was seen as a handicap for Jimmy Snuka, a man with tremendous leaping ability.

Backlund took the early offensive in this match, slamming





Snuka doubles Backlund over with a right to the midsection (left). Backlund is in severe trouble as Snuka lifts him for a backbreaker (above). Snuka's escape is prevented by Backlund grabbing his feet and referee Dick Kroll holding the gate shut (below).

Snuka to the mat and temporarily stunning his opponent who at first seemed leery of the cage surrounding the ropes.

Following repeated attacks by Backlund, Snuka attempted to exit through the doorway, but the combination of Backlund grabbing Snuka by the feet and the referee questionably holding the cage door shut prevented Snuka from opening the door.

Backlund's attack upon Snuka seemed to radiate his thirst for revenge, and when the champion raked Snuka's face across the cage itself, opening up a series of bloody wounds on the challenger's face, attainment of that revenge seemed very close indeed.

Then Snuka took the offensive position, bombarding Backlund with a number of elbowsmashes from the second rope, following up with a pair of forearm smashes that weakened Backlund considerably.

Climbing to the top rope inside the cage, Snuka unleashed his frightening flying bodypress that left Backlund stunned in the middle of the ring. Climbing to the top rope again, Snuka prepared to de-



liver the finishing blow, but thought twice: Instead, he scaled to the very top of the cage itself and executed a breathtaking leap from nearly 25 feet in the air!

Although Backlund was stunned from the first leap, he was barely conscious enough to roll out of the way as Snuka sailed through the air from the top of the cage. The Superfly was completely paralyzed upon contact

with the bare canvas, and the 10 minutes or so it took for him to recover allowed a very weak and slightly awake Bob Backlund to crawl through the cage door and claim victory.

Orton will have to work hard in his matches against Backlund, but there is no doubt that the champion has had his stamina drained by the challenges of Superfly Snuka.

—Peter King

★★★★★WRESTLING★★★★★

ENQUIRER

BACKLUND-FLAIR TITLE UNIFICATION MATCH INCONCLUSIVE

BY BILL APTER

ATLANTA, GA.—WWF heavy-weight champion Bob Backlund stepped into the ring with NWA titlist Ric Flair here in a rare match intended to unify the two wrestling federations.

Fans here in Atlanta cheered every move and countermove as the two champions wrestled in one of the most surprising matches in years. Backlund kept the match on a highly scientific level, but Flair attempted to brawl at every turn.

At the 20-minute mark, the combatants fell out of the ring, battled furiously at ringside, and were both counted out.

Ringside observer AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel was quoted as saying, "What a travesty I could have pinned



As Bob Backlund attempts to reverse Ric Flair's figure-four leglock, the pain is enormous for both men.

travesty. I could have pinned them both in half the time."

As Rob Backlund attempts to reverse Ric Flair's figure-four leglock, the pain is enormous for both men.

Orton Shoots Low In War Of Words With Backlund

BY RICH COUNTIS

ALLENTOWN, PA—Appearing on televised interviews here, Cowboy Bob Orton has sunk to a new low as he attempts to goad Bob Backlund prior to their first meeting in the squared circle.

Insulting not only his professional style and his personality, Orton has taken to making some extremely offensive remarks about Backlund's family, particularly his mother.

All Orton had to say in response was, "If the shoe fits, wear it."

Brian Blair Claims Florida Belt

BY STU SAKS

ORLANDO, FL—Entering his match with Florida champion Jim Garvin, Brian Blair was listed as a 3-1 underdog.

Despite the odds, however, Blair surprised Garvin, the fans, and probably himself as he held his opponent to the canvas for the three-count and walked out of the ring with the Florida championship belt around his waist.

"I'm proud as anything to be champion," said Blair, "and I'll defend the title against anyone. I'll even give Garvin an immediate rematch if he wants."

Wahoo Unable To Get U.S. Title Bid



McDaniel seeks a rematch with Slaughter

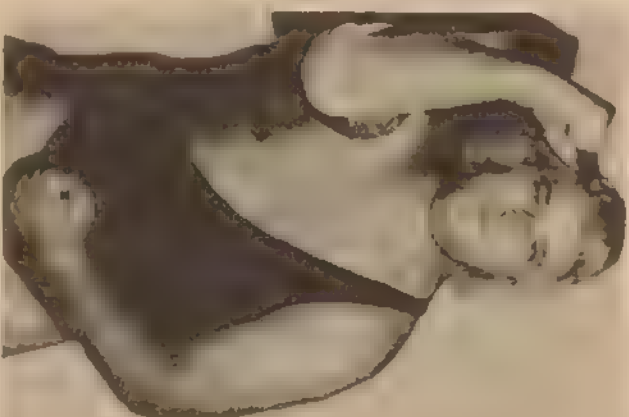
BY PETER KING

CHARLOTTE, NC—Wahoo McDaniel is claiming that U.S. champion Sgt. Slaughter is avoiding him and refusing to offer him a rematch.

"That sleazy snake Slaughter is running scared from me," said McDaniel. "He knows I am the rightful owner of the belt, and he knows that he would lose if he faced me in the ring. I beat him before and I'll beat him again. It's only a matter of time."

Jagers Seeks Caribbean Title

BY CRAIG PETERS
SANTURCE, PUERTO RICO—Hangman Bobby Jagers is currently on the trail of Charlie Cook.



Bobby Jagers is looking for a title shot with Caribbean champion Charlie Cook

A former Florida champion and current Caribbean champion, Cook has been defending his title against some of the most brutal men ever to wrestle in this area.

"I'll give a title shot to Jagers," said Cook. "I'm not afraid of him at all. But first, he's going to have to earn it."

AROUND THE GLOBE

TOKYO, JAPAN

A series of matches has been signed between Hulk Hogan and Japanese superstar Antonio Inoki. Inoki, who plans to wrestle in the United States this year, has seen Hogan wrestle and fears he may be his toughest opponent yet.

BATON ROUGE, LA

Shock and horror are the only way to describe the fans' feeling here regarding Ted Dibiase's sudden change to rulebreaker. Ted, who won the North American title ruthlessly from his former friend Junkyard Dog, now says he will win any way he has to. "I'm sick of being taken advantage of," he said. "It stops now!"

WEST PALM BEACH, FL

The Alabama Chain Gang is the newest addition of James J. Dillon's stable. The objective is to win the North American tag team belts from Sweet Brown Sugar and Butch Reed. Dillon says he'll give them a \$25,000 bonus if they can pull off what so far has been impossible.

SAN ANTONIO, TX

Terry Funk has enlisted the aid of Dick Slater in an attempt to exact revenge against Gino Hernandez and Tully Blanchard for an incident that took place over a year ago. At that time, Hernandez and Blanchard nearly severed Funk's ear, putting the Texan out of action for quite some time.

LOOKING AT...

Matt Brock:



BEFORE A BULLFIGHT, the matadors' assistants are taken to the corral where the bulls await. The most famous matador gets his assistant to choose first. Obscure matadors are forced to fight the bulls that are left. If these men are lucky, the bulls will be noble if not physically great. The unluckiest matador is forced to fight the bull that is not chosen for the famous matador because the bull looks too mean, too unpredictable, and too eager to kill. The man who fights this bull becomes instantly famous or another casualty of the sport.

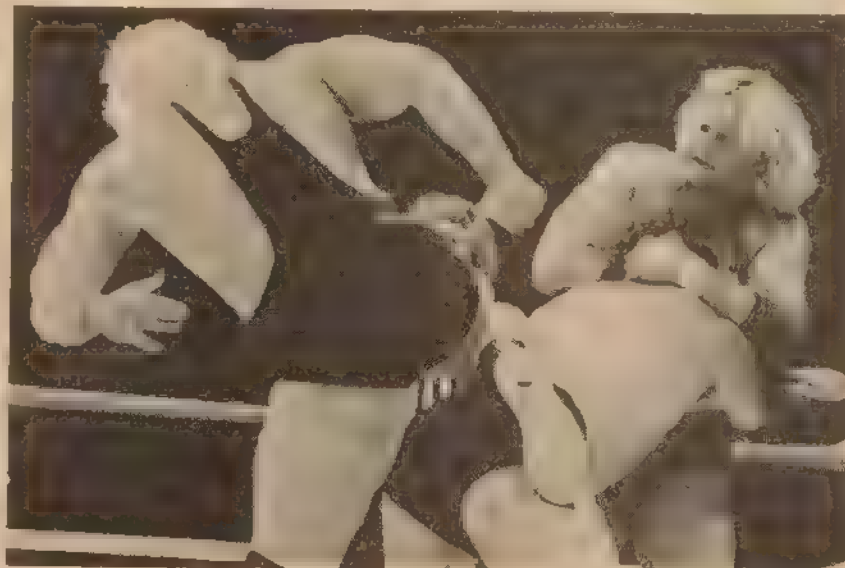
Watching Bobby Duncum wrestle, one is reminded of those bulls. There is little sport when one must battle Duncum or these rogue animals. All one can hope for is a bloody victory. One knows that there is always the chance of disaster, and all the abilities of a top wrestler or all the swords of the *torreros* won't make the ordeal any easier.

I saw him recently, wrestling as Ken Patera's tag team partner in the AWA. The pair is managed by Bobby Heenan, but nobody really manages Duncum. Patera's

greatness is that he can manage to work around Duncum, taking advantage of his partner's greatness and compensating for the man's recklessness. Someone once said if Duncum was any less crazy, he could be champion forever. Then again, I always thought if he was any less crazy, he'd be a preliminary wrestler. I'm not saying I'm right, but it's a theory that gets better and better

the closer it gets to last call at the bar.

The night I saw them wrestle, it was Patera and Duncum against Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell, the AWA tag team champions. Gagne and Brunzell are like an insult to everything Duncum believes. Bobby hates guys who want the sport to be true and good and run by people who believe in rules. So he tears into the



Bobby Duncum holds Billy Robinson in place as Ken Patera knees the Englishman in the kidney.

BOBBY DUNCUM



two youngsters like a bull goring a helpless matador. And like the worst kind of bullfights, when both matador and bull lie bloody and dying from a war that neither of them anticipated, Duncum and Patera battled Gagne and Brunzell to an ugly and awesomely brutal double-disqualification. It was matches like this that convinced me years ago that I could never convince people that there was a reason for loving wrestling. You either saw beneath the violence to the grandeur or the savagery made you sick. Nothing I can say will change that.

I've followed Duncum's career with the same kind of horrified fascination that a meteorologist follows the course of a killer hurricane. I've seen him wrestle in Texas, Georgia, and the Northeast. I've seen Bruno Sammartino finish a match against him and look like a man confronted with a truth that all the wishing in the world can't change. Later, Bruno would say Duncum was one of the toughest men he ever met. But at the moment the match ended, Bruno shook as if he had just beaten back a demon. Yeah, there's something about Duncum



Duncum, who has established himself as one of the meanest men in wrestling, applies pressure to the neck of Baron Von Raschke. Duncum seems to have contempt for every man he faces.

that gets into your marrow and makes you know that your soul isn't really your own.

Watching Duncum wrestle, this explosion of unrestrained

rage aiming at a target you're suddenly afraid to name, each time it's an ordeal you can't understand. What's more, you're glad you can't. □

**Roddy
Piper's
Revenge
Against
PWI**

**THE
MATCH
THAT
PROVED
HIM
RIGHT
AND US
WRONG**



Roddy Piper had been angered by what he believed were repeated attacks by this magazine. We denied that we were intentionally out to smear his character. Piper spoke out on national television criticizing PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED. The situation seemed insoluble. Then the NWA stepped into the picture.



THE SITUATION BETWEEN Roddy Piper and *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* had advanced to a critical point . . . and beyond.

As chronicled in these pages two months ago (*PWI*, September 1982), an angry Piper strode into the office of Editor-in-Chief Peter King demanding that so-called "attacks on [his] good name" be halted. What he was referring to was a typographical error on the cover of our August issue calling him "Rodney" instead of the intended "Roddy."

In early July, in front of millions of television viewers nationwide, Piper appeared on the *Georgia Championship Wrestling* program and tore several copies of this magazine to ribbons. His anger in this case centered on a fan ballot run in our sister publication, *The Wrestler*. The ballot asked readers whether Piper ought to be banned from GCW or kept on as commentator.

Response to the poll was overwhelming. Piper again appeared on national television, read several of the ballots in anger, tore them to

Roddy Piper was very careful—at least on this night—to wrestle within the framework of the rules. Though suffering tremendously as Slater reverses his figure-four leglock, Piper escapes legally by grabbing the ropes (above). Slater's attack is brutal, but Piper's counter will be scientific (below).



shreds, and sent the results of his temper tantrum floating to the ground like confetti.

(Editor's note: The final results of the poll are in and are reported in the November 1982 issue of THE WRESTLER, now on sale.)

That televised trade took place in mid-July. Two days after the broadcast, a registered letter came to the offices of PWI. The letter was from NWA President Jim Crockett.

In brief, the letter outlined the history of the controversy between this magazine and Roddy Piper. It also called for a halt to the hostility between the two parties. The letter said in part:

Mr Piper's attorney has been in contact with me, and he is prepared to file suit unless your magazine does one of two things:

1. Retract previously published statements re: Piper, his personality, his style as a rulebreaker, et. al.

2. Report with complete and absolute objectivity the findings of a blue ribbon panel assigned by the NWA and approved by all parties involved to judge Piper's performance during a special match with Dick Slater.

Details of the special match followed, and we sent our reporters to the arena in which it was to be held. The location was in Mexico, just over the Texas border, due to various legal technicalities.

A panel of eight observers deemed objective by lawyers for the NWA, Piper, and PWI sat at ringside to judge Piper's style during the match.

As Piper entered the ring, he looked to our reporter sitting near the ring and snarled, "Finally, your rag will have to eat its words. I've put up with your crap for long enough. Now, you'll see how wrong you've been all along."

Piper prepared for battle against



his opponent, Dick Slater. From the opening bell, Slater engaged in a veritable rulebreaker's textbook of moves. As each maneuver was attempted by Slater, Piper countered it masterfully. At one point, after a particularly slick escape from one of Slater's questionably legal holds, Piper turned to the ringside photographer and screamed, "There, I hope you got that for your scandal sheet! Pictures don't lie, which is more than I can say for reporters!"

Throughout the match, the fans in the arena cheered Piper rather than Slater. Piper wrestled with skill and grace. Slater didn't wrestle as much as he brawled. Throughout the entire contest, the eight member panel took detailed notes.

After the match, an NWA official from Jim Crockett's office informed PWI that the notes and conclusions of the panel would have to be studied before a final judgment could be made. Piper

Piper showed incredible restraint throughout the match. Even when Slater executed a spinecrusher outside the ring, Piper did not lose his cool. Piper was intent on showing up PWI, and he accomplished his task.

walked out of the ring a happy man. He had wrestled one of the most scientific matches of his entire professional career.

Two tense weeks later, another registered letter arrived at the PWI offices. Again signed by NWA President Jim Crockett, the letter presented a detailed account of the match between Slater and Piper, summarized the notes of each ringside panel judge, and offered the following conclusions:

"It is the judgment of the panel and of the NWA that Roddy Piper wrestled in full accordance with the highest tenets of sportsmanship and competition as recognized by profes-

(Continued on page 51)

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

(Continued from Page 29)

FRANK WILLIAMS

"I have wrestled every major star in professional wrestling, and I know better than anybody else what it means to get abused by some of these sadistic maniacs like Blackjack Mulligan and Jimmy Snuka. I have more experience than these guys, though, and I'm never going to quit this fantastic sport, no matter how much these guys cheat against me."



JACK BRISCO

"Roddy Piper talks a big game, but when it gets down to the nitty gritty, all he can do is cheat. When he stole the Mid-Atlantic title from me, he had some sort of a foreign object in his hand, something that was sure as hell not flesh and bone. I'll get even with that slime, though, sooner or later."



TOMMY RICH

"I just wanted to reassure all of my fans, because I've been getting a lot of mail, that the rumors are not true. I will not be leaving wrestling, and I can assure you all that if there is something about this sport that I do not like, I will not run away. I will try to take care of it from within the sport and help wrestling change for the better."



RICK MARTEL

"I'm glad that I am able to team up with my old friend, Tito Santana. It is a good way for me to learn about the various styles that the AWA wrestlers are using now, and hopefully I might be able to challenge Bockwinkel for the title sooner or later. Right now, though, Tito and I are going strong and we may even capture the belts before long!"



Ringside

(Continued from Page 6)



Ted DiBiase is following Dory Funk Jr.'s path from fan favorite to rulebreaker (above). Sir Oliver Humperdink (left) is negotiating to add the great Ivan Koloff to his already formidable stable of wrestlers.



the most popular men in the sport, is alienating everyone in the Mid-South region. DiBiase has declared that former pals Junkyard Dog and Dick Murdoch are "bums," and his friendship with them has held back his career. "I will do anything I have to do to win every

match from now on. And if that means bending a rule now and then, well, better my opponent than me."

He stands 6'9" and weighs 385 pounds. His name is the Great Kamala and he is wrestling in Tennessee under the management of none other than James J. Dillon. Kamala and Dillon's only objective is the elimination of Jerry Lawler.

"Soulman" Rocky Johnson won a \$3,000 Battle Royal in Tacoma, Washington. What did he do with the winnings? Rocky donated the bundle of money to charity. Attaboy Rock! . . . Mr. Olympia and Junkyard Dog continue their strong hold on the Mid-South tag team belts.

Rick Steamboat is back full time in the Mid-Atlantic area after spending some time contemplating

his future in the sport. Rick says his head is clear, he feels great, and he wants a shot at Ric Flair's NWA title . . . Barry Windham (also known as Blackjack Mulligan Jr.) and David Von Erich make a fine tag team combo . . . Sir Oliver Humperdink is now the manager of record for Ninja and Gene Anderson. He is also negotiating to buy the contract of Ivan Koloff

Magnificent Muraco is boasting about his 48-second victory over Dusty Rhodes at Atlanta's Omni. "And after I wiped the floor with Moby Dick, I also demolished sissy-boy Rich in less than one minute," the Magnificent one boasts. What he forgot to tell everyone is that he used a pair of brass knuckles to do the job. Magnificent?

That's all for now. See you at ringside! □

Roddy Piper

(Continued from Page 48)

sional wrestlers worldwide.

"Furthermore, based on observations during Mr. Piper's match against Dick Slater, it is the judgment of the panel and of the NWA



Piper is victimized by the same tactics he has used to gain his recent success. But ask him, and he'll tell you it was worth it.

that previously published statements in the magazine *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* are inflammatory and unsubstantiated

"Continuation of such statements in the future to the level that has been presented in the past will result in definitive legal action by Mr. Piper against the magazine *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*."

You win Roddy. What more can we say? ☐

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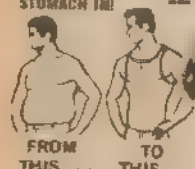
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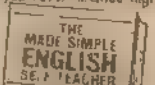
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In Focus

(Continued from Page 10)

A CHAMPIONSHIP PERFORMANCE, BUT NOT A CHAMPION

Rick Martel has done it, but it didn't get him anywhere.

In a non-title match, Martel held Nick Bockwinkel's shoulders to the mat for the three count. The emphasis, however, is on the word "non-title." Martel is not discouraged.

"Tito Santana warned me about this happening," said Martel. "He told me that when I

faced Bockwinkel he would be playing all sorts of games with me, and now it's started. I'm not worried about it, though. I know that if I pinned him once I can do it again, and no amount of interference from his slimy manager is going to stop me. I'm determined, and I will defeat Bockwinkel for the belt."

HE'S HIS OWN MAN NOW

Barry Windham is his name, not Blackjack Mulligan Jr.

The popular young wrestler, now in Florida, has renounced all association with his father.

"I feel as if I'm finally out of

my father's shadow," said Barry. "I really don't approve of the way he's been wrestling lately, and I'm particularly worried about his feud with Andre the Giant. Nevertheless, he has to live his own life and career, and I have to live mine."

Windham is currently engaged in heated battles with Kendo Nagasaki and Jim Garvin, and is trying to run J.J. Dillon and his entire stable of rulebreakers out of the state.

"It's a big job, dealing with Dillon and his gang," said Windham, "and the arrival of this Alabama Chain Gang doesn't help matters very much. But there are some people helping me: Mike Graham, and now David Von Erich. I think we'll succeed."



BARRY WINDHAM

SOME DAYS IT DOESN'T PAY TO GET UP IN THE MORNING

When Junkyard Dog lost the North American title to Ted DiBiase, he also lost a lot of respect for a man he thought had a lot more class than he demonstrated.

"I couldn't believe it," said a saddened Dog. "DiBiase hit me with a foreign object and took the title as a result. Not only that, but he did this in front of millions of people on television. I'm very



JUNKYARD DOG

disturbed by this. I really thought he was much more of a sportsman than that."

Dusty Rhodes

(Continued from Page 31)

by the suggestion. He only accepted because the match was in Texas. "The fans here deserve the best," he said. "The honor of Texas wrestling is at stake. For that, I'll do anything. I guess anything includes teaming with Rhodes. I won't like it, but I'll do my best."

At first, Rhodes refused to have Funk as his tag team partner. "I'd rather kiss a rattlesnake," he swore. "I'll wrestle Hansen and Anderson by myself. It'd be better than wrestling with that louse."

When Dusty was reminded that a handicap match was impossible for about 30 contractual reasons (the promoter figuring health rea-

sons would not mean much to Rhodes), he was faced with either accepting Funk or calling off the bout. As much as he hates Funk, he hates Anderson and Hansen more. In the end, Rhodes agreed to team with Funk. "For the sake of Texas wrestling," he said, "and another chance to get my hands on Hansen and Anderson, yeah, I'll be his partner. But I wish I could kiss a rattlesnake instead."

Dusty made several conditions. "There's no reason we have to train together. We know each other now about as well as we ever will. We'll have only one strategy meeting, a week before the bout. If we get through the meeting

Funk expertly applies a standing leglock on Anderson (right) and Rhodes dominates Hansen (below), but the challengers did not cooperate enough to defeat the NWA champions.



without killing each other, the deal is on. Lastly, there'll be no official record of the bout. I don't want my name to appear in the record books with Funk's."

The promoter relayed the conditions to Dory. They were acceptable. The bout, if the strategy meeting went well, was on.

The day of the meeting, both men entered the promoter's office wearing suits. This was to be a formal conference. In fact, it was more remarkable for what wasn't said than for what was said.

There were no arguments. Their strategy would be simple and traditional. Neither one could complain about anything. It was a compromise both were willing to make. Both knew the less said, the better.

The night of the match, however, something strange and wonderful happened. Their desire to uphold the honor of Texas wrestling had made them partners. That same desire forced them to wrestle at their best. They weren't a great team, but they were two great wrestlers.

That was almost but not quite enough. Against Anderson and Hansen, only a disciplined team has a chance for victory. Forgetting their hatred, Funk and Rhodes proved noble adversaries. They had separate moments of greatness, but there was never enough mutual trust to make them a real team.

The match ended in a draw. Yet, spectators couldn't help feeling Rhodes and Funk had won much more. They had conquered their feud for a night to unite in a common cause. Could this be the beginning of the end of their hatred?

Everyone was disappointed an hour later. The pair broke up and left in different directions. For one night, they had managed to form an uneasy partnership. From now on, they were enemies again. ☐



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On Assignment

(Continued from Page 12)

"Well, there's an awful lot of work ahead of us," he said. "What happens in a case like this is that I sit down with Dusty, we talk about what kind of a final goal he's aiming at, and then we break that down into a series of intermediate goals. From there, we work those intermediate goals into a weekly, and then finally a daily regimen of exercise and diet."

"Let me give you an example," Kevin continued. "Suppose you wanted to lose 20 pounds. That's your final goal. So what we do is set up intermediate goals: five pounds a week for

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"Now when we figure out that daily schedule," Kevin said, "we take into account the daily intake of food and drink, including absolutely everything from the smallest of snacks to beers at night to anything else that goes into the body. Average exercise

Rhodes won't have to stop eating altogether, but he will have to change some of his bad habits. Sullivan has told Rhodes to eliminate beer drinking while traveling and substitute diet soda (below). Dusty is determined to shed some excess poundage (opposite right).



"Well, there are a lot of measurements and calculations that have to be made before a

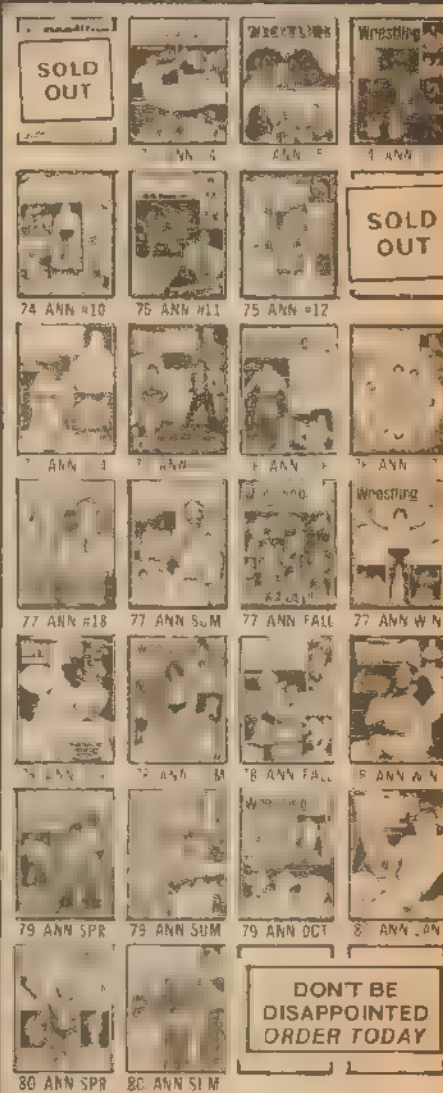


So do I. After talking with Kevin about his plans for Dusty Rhodes, I'm convinced that we'll see a considerably trimmed down American Dream before long. I wish him all the luck in the world. □



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King's Coup!

(Continued from Page 8)



There was no question who the fans were behind when Dusty Rhodes wrestled the new Ted DiBiase.

sportsmanlike gesture as he waited for DiBiase to reenter the ring.

Then, it happened.

DiBiase, his glove apparently loaded with some metal object, slugged Dog on the jaw. Dog fell to the canvas as if he were shot. I don't know why the referee didn't disqualify DiBiase, perhaps he couldn't believe what he was seeing. DiBiase then climbed into the ring and pinned the unconscious Dog to win the North American belt.

At first, there was no sound from the crowd. Then, there were a few cheers. Finally, as everyone realized what had happened, the arena was rocked with boos.

DiBiase took the belt and left the arena quickly. But many people he passed on the way to the dressing room remember being greeted with a string of profanities from the new champion. One woman, who apparently did not see how DiBiase won the title, smiled and asked for his autograph. DiBiase spit on the piece of paper she wanted him to sign.

I still can't believe what has happened to Ted DiBiase. Many people have given up on him; claiming he has gone beyond redemption. I don't know. Maybe I'm just stupid, but I keep looking for explanations.

According to many close to the Mid-South promotion, DiBiase has refused to take any physicals since his run in with Roop and Khan. It's a fact that DiBiase suffered brutal punishment to the head when he tried to help Junkyard Dog—the same man he savaged two nights later.

Perhaps something physical has happened to DiBiase. Perhaps his mind is twisted, not from hatred, but from brain damage. Maybe DiBiase needs to be helped more than we need to hate him.

Or maybe I can't face the truth. Maybe my old friend is just an evil man after all. I don't know. But I do know wrestling has become harder for me to watch. I will never feel friendship for another wrestler again. □

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Dressing Room Confidential

(Continued from Page 18)

they were becoming a tag team. A month later, their friendship of 10 years would be shattered. Two months later, they would face each other before 27,000 fans at New York's Shea Stadium.

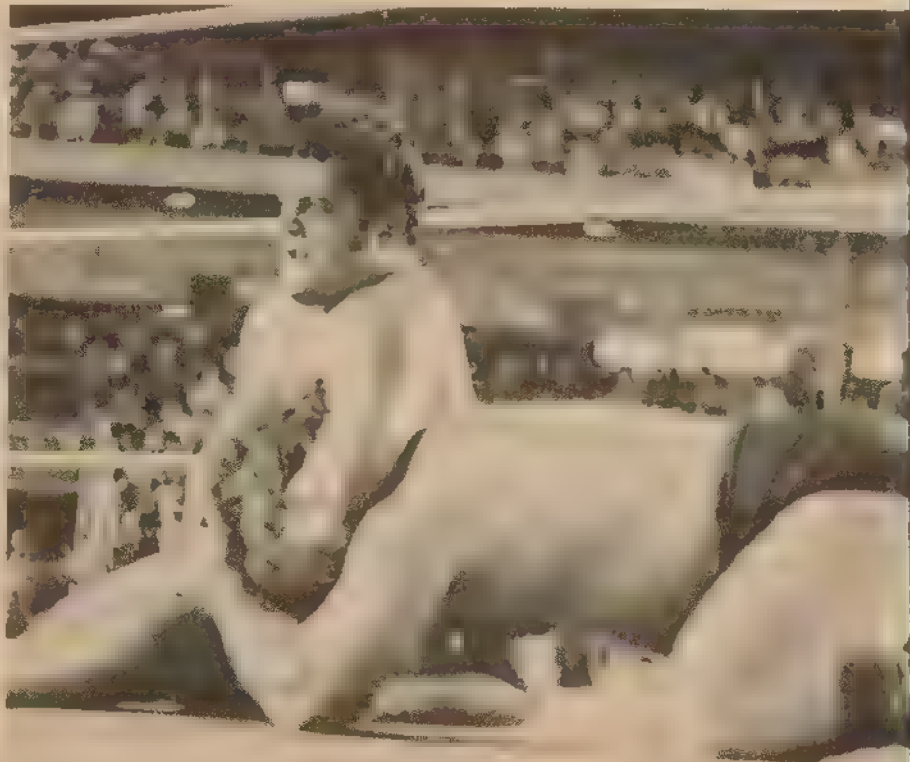
Shall we take one step at a time?

Ten years ago, Pedro Morales was the WWF champion. He had taken the title in February 1972 from Ivan Koloff. Koloff was the man who, in January, ended Bruno Sammartino's title reign after 7 1/2 years. At the time, the reigning WWF tag team champions were Mr. Fuji and Prof. Toru Tanaka. And if you think Fuji and Sa.to are devious, you should have seen these guys.

Sammartino and Morales really didn't want to form a tag team. Bruno had gone into semi-retirement following his loss to

Koloff. Morales was busy defending his championship. The fans begged Sammartino and Morales to team, so they did. That's the kind of men they are. They were sorry they did. What happened in that match, as unbelievable as it seemed, would bring on the biggest controversy in the history of the federation.

Neither team was able to gain a decided advantage in the match until Fuji chopped Sammartino to the canvas. Fuji, sensing the victory, climbed to the top turnbuckle, but Bruno was not as badly hurt as he assumed. Bruno climbed to his feet, lifted Fuji off the turnbuckle, and threw him to the canvas. Bruno then held Fuji to the mat as Morales climbed to the turnbuckle. But Tanaka attacked Bruno from behind, forcing him to release Fuji. At that same instant,



Morales applies a headlock on Bruno Sammartino during their classic confrontation at Shea Stadium.

Morales made his leap from the turnbuckle. He landed on his partner.

Morales consoled Bruno briefly, and the match resumed. Late in the match, Fuji entered the ring, met Sammartino with chops to the neck, and whipped him into Tanaka's foot. The Professor tagged and missed a flying elbow-drop. Sammartino rallied back with punches. Quickly, Fuji jumped into the ring, followed by Morales from the opposite corner.

But as the referee herded Morales back to his corner, Fuji threw a handful of salt into Bruno's eyes. Blinded, Bruno began flailing wildly at the air. Morales rushed in to help his injured partner, but ran into one of Bruno's stray punches. Morales fell to the mat, and Tanaka threw a handful of salt into his eyes. Tanaka then grabbed Sammartino and threw him on top of Morales. Blinded and thinking they were in contact with their opponents, Sammartino and Morales began slugging it out. The referee called for the bell, as Tanaka and Fuji quickly departed.

As Morales and Sammartino stood toe to toe trading punches, it became evident that they had at least regained partial vision and definitely knew who they were punching. The two continued to slug it out until Arnold Skoaland, Sonny King, Chief Jay Strongbow, and Fred Curry broke it up.

There would be no apologies. Each man blamed the other for what happened. Everyone knew that Tanaka and Fuji were at fault, but that didn't matter. It had all gone too far at that point.

The only thing left to do was sign the match between Bruno Sammartino and Pedro Morales. A friendship of 10 years was destroyed. The fans' loyalties were split.

Did somebody hear Tanaka and Fuji's sinister laugh in the background?

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Press Conference

(Continued from Page 25)



Gordy twists Samoan Afa's arm during The Freebirds' successful Georgia National tag team title defense at The Omni in Atlanta. The fans and Hayes have put their trust in the reformed Gordy.

together, and how can you be sure you can trust him?

HAYES: Well, you have to understand that when The Freebirds broke up, it was the destruction of an organization that had seen a lot of success in wrestling. Take something successful and say you don't want a part of it anymore, and you're likely to make a few enemies. My reasons for leaving The Freebirds were highly personal, and I couldn't expect everyone to understand them. Terry couldn't understand why I wanted to leave, and he struck out at me from sheer frustration. I understand that now. We've had some long talks, and we understand each other better now than we ever did. I trust Terry completely.

GORDY: That's right, and I had to demonstrate that he could trust me, so I prevented The Kiwi Shepherders from cutting off all of Michael's hair. It was a difficult situation for a while, and I don't think that

Michael was really sure of whether he could trust me or not, but these things come in time, and I think our relationship now is better than it ever has been.

STU SAKS: Winning a championship will help things along quite a bit too!

GORDY: That's for sure.

SAKS: I've noticed that the two of you are involved in many outside matches. Michael, you've teamed up with Tommy Rich on occasion, and Terry, you've been wrestling in single matches. Can you tell us why?

HAYES: Well, part of my reason for leaving The Freebirds last time was that I felt too shut in. I couldn't grow as a wrestler if I was teaming with the same two men all the time. Now, there's some variety in my wrestling, and teaming with different partners improves my style on an overall basis.

GORDY: Absolutely. I like to wrestle in single matches for much the same reasons, and it's good to get away once in a while. It keeps me from getting stale if I can wrestle solo every so often.

APTER: What about Buddy Roberts? Will he be rejoining you soon?

HAYES: I can't say.

APTER: Terry? Would you like to see a complete reunion of The Freebirds?

GORDY: Buddy isn't out of the picture completely, but that's all I'm going to say about him.

APTER: I understand that Jerry Brisco has come out publicly and said that he would like to be the third Freebird.

HAYES: Yes, I've heard that too, and Jerry's been in contact with us a couple of times. I have to be frank with you, though, and tell you that even though we would consider a lot of different people as a third Freebird, if we think about bringing any Brisco into the corporation, it would probably be Jack, because Jerry is too tied up in the Georgia Championship Wrestling front office right now with his duties as vice president.

FARHOOD: But wouldn't you bring Roberts back before Brisco?

HAYES: We've said all we will about Roberts.

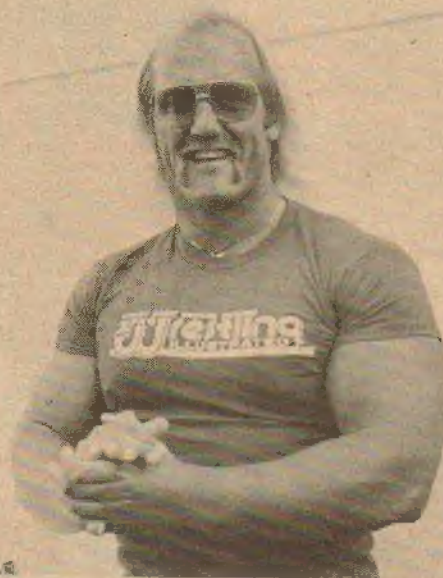
SAKS: One final question. Do you feel that the problems you two have gone through—the distrust, the harsh words—do you think your relationship is better or worse for it all.

GORDY: I think it's much better. When two friends go through a hard time together, they usually come out of it closer and all the better for it. At least that's the case if the friendship is really worth anything. I think our friendship is stronger than ever, and I hope it will stay that way.

HAYES: That goes double for me. Freebird Fantasia, just like rock 'n' roll, is here to stay, brother! ☐

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Hulk Hogan

(Continued from Page 28)

muscular glory and handsomeness, wouldn't you pay again and again to see the movie? Of course you would, and that's the main reason *Rocky III* has become such a big box office success."

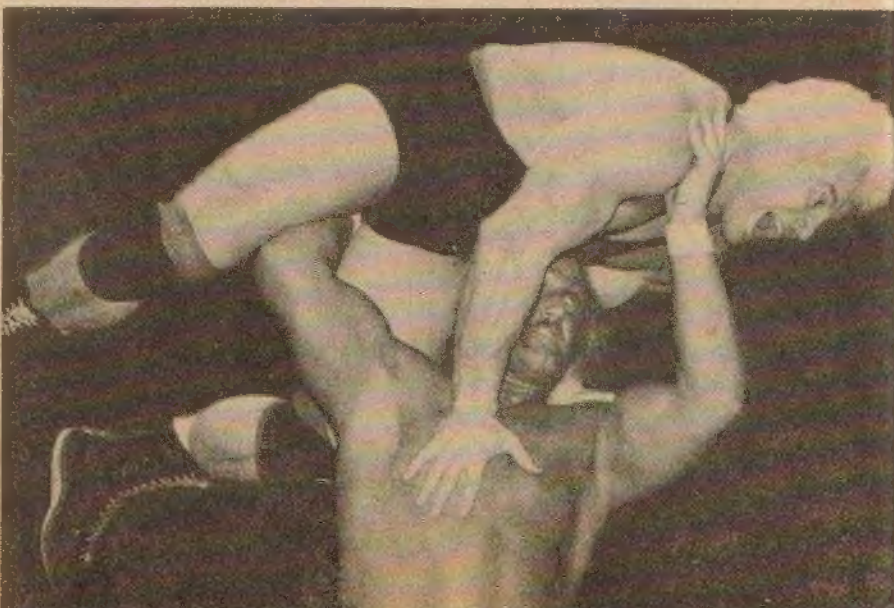
Of course, Hogan is not one to let his success on the screen overshadow his accomplishments in the ring. At press time, Hogan was wrestling in Japan. We reached

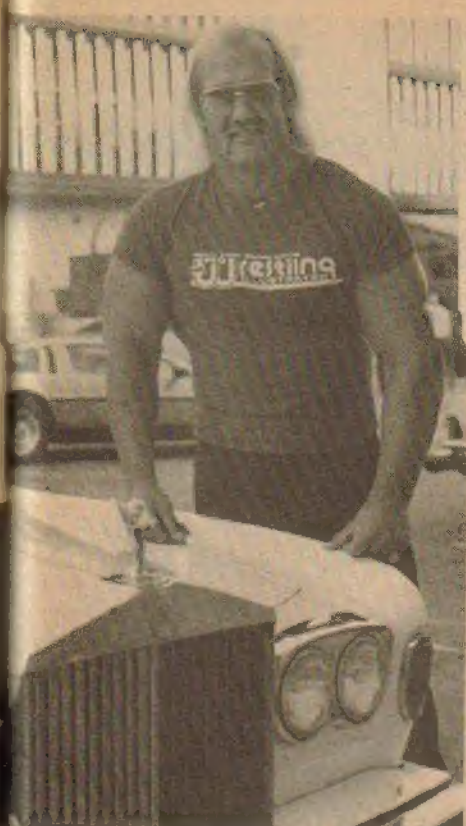
him by telephone to get his reaction to Hulkmania.

"I'm glad to see that Hulkmania is spreading all across the country as fast as it is," said Hogan. "But I want to say one thing, and that has to do with the fact that even though I am incredibly successful on the screen, I'm not going to let my career in the ring suffer for it."



Above: Hogan lifts Ken Patera over his head before dropping him on his back. Below: The Hulk is as determined as ever to capture Nick Bockwinkel's AWA championship. Opposite page: Hogan is probably the first person to ever own both a Rolls-Royce and a PWI T-shirt.





"So what I'm doing is putting all of my opponents on notice, and particularly Nick Bockwinkel," declared Hogan. "As of right now, each and every one of my opponents will be exposed to the full force of Hulkmania in all its wonderful glory. What this means to you unfortunate wrestlers is that you will lose, plain and simple."

"As for you, Mr. Bockwinkel, your days are numbered," vowed Hogan. "Your championship reign will end, and I will be the one to bring it to its obvious conclusion."

"You fans won't be left out, either," said Hogan. "What you can do is continue to support me, to bring signs and banners to the arenas in which you see me wrestle. Bring a banner that says 'Thunderlips' or 'Hulkmania' and I will know for a fact that you are all behind me. I know you all support me, but to see the banners as well as hear the cheers would help spread Hulkmania even further."

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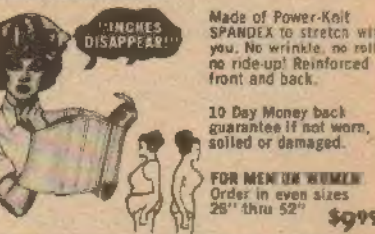
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